

Pass the Parcel

A new approach to energy efficiency

Research into the health impacts of climate change had largely focussed on of thermal stress, extreme weather events and infectious disease. Little work has been done on the indirect impacts resulting in social, economic and demographic changes. Evidence started to emerge about the population health impacts of climate change and the increasing demand for frameworks and tools to assist local communities develop and implement effective local responses to climate change adaptation. Following the publication of *Climate Change Adaptation: A Framework for Local Action*ⁱ by the Southern Grampians and Glenelg Primary Care Partnership a demonstration project highlighted methods to work with communities around adaptation to climate change and explored community engagement and energy efficiency. The learnings from this project will be tested on larger scale in ***Pass the Parcel***.



Pass the Parcel will provide a valuable approach to sustainability by reducing vulnerability of low income households, increasing awareness, concern and motivation about sustainability projects and increasing access to sustainability solutions. Utilising the technology of an ibutton (a temperature data logger) participants will have personal data related to the temperature in their home which is then easily compared to energy bills and comfort. This personal data will provide a baseline to begin a journey of change. The ibutton will form part of a parcel which will hold other sustainability information that can be passed around the community. Participants will be invited to participate in sustainability workshop and be linked to sustainability programs to improve energy efficiency. Increased awareness and behaviour change will be evaluated through participant interviews and focus groups.

Southern Grampians and Glenelg Primary Care Partnership partner agencies will act as hosts for the ***Pass the Parcel*** Project with up to fifteen agencies and 450 people participating in the project over 3 years.

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ⁱ Rowe, R. and Thomas, A. (2008) Climate Change Adaptation: A Framework for Local Action. The MCAughey Centre. Vichealth Centre for Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing.